

Strong Backs And Shovels Used To Make Early Roads

(This is another in a series of "Glimpses of Highway History" prepared by Ralph Watson, writer for the state highway commission.)

"In the good old days" when Oregon started to build highways, road building was done with strong backs, short handled shovels and a combination of men and horsepower directly applied on the works. Bulldozers then were an inventor's dream. Road scrapers were "drags" hauled by horses and mules. Contractors "blew" stumps out of the right of way with black powder or dug them out with mat-tocks and men. Cut were cleared and fills were made with wheelbarrows, shovels, dump wagons, slips and fresnos.

Most of the tools they used in those days are museum pieces compared with the equipment contractors employ now. Today one of the primary factors a highway contractor figures on a job is the cost of the gasoline and diesel required to run the ponderous machines he uses. Back in 1913 he figured how much hay and oats he would need to keep his horses and mules pushing against their dollars. And men, lots of men, ate like horses after they had been hitched to the end of a short handled shovel for eight hours or more, so the cost of their fodder was figured in with the hay and the oats.

Man Power Cheap
In those rugged and slow moving days when Oregon's road map was started crawling over the face of the state, manpower was cheap and abundant. A man and his team would put in eight hours, sometimes more, for around \$6 a day. Pick and shovel men earn about as much in eight hours as they now get in two. That was before highway construction money started growing out of gasoline.

During the first 18 months of Oregon's highway saga, Major Bowly, the first state highway engineer, had more men available than the commission had money. He tells about it in discussing "the unemployment situation," with "hundreds of men unable to find work of any kind, and every indication that the approaching winter will be a worse one for the unemployed." He recommended the "adoption of a comprehensive plan" which he estimated would require \$100,000 to take care of 1,000 men for a period of 60 days. It would not get more than 50 per cent of the work secured on a contract job, the major estimated, "but the cities would be relieved of a great problem that is difficult to solve within the limits of a modern city."

Plan Outlined
The plan as outlined: "There will be necessary two road camps situated comparatively close to-



FILMLAND'S BEST—Broderick Crawford and Olivia De Havilland clutch their "Oscars" and cast proud eyes toward each other after they won top honors as the best actor and actress of 1949 at the 22nd annual Academy Award ceremonies in Hollywood. Crawford received his trophy for portrayal of the leading role in "All the King's Men," and Miss De Havilland was honored for her part in "The Heiress." It was Miss De Havilland's second "Oscar."

Sen. Downey Quits Life As Politician

Washington, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Sen. Sheridan Downey (D., Cal.), the old Townsendite, who has been battling for old age pensions for the past 18 years, reluctantly retired from the political wars today.

Reversing earlier decisions, he announced that "upon the urgent advice of my physicians" he was forced to withdraw his candidacy for re-election to the senate in November.

Together in a part of the state where the climate is not too severe in winter. One of these camps should be outfitted similar to a contractor's camp, the men paid a nominal wage and furnished good board and bunks.

"The other camp should be a stockade camp, with more or less work for the men to do, and board given in proportion to the work done. With these camps established, all unemployed could then be given their choice of working in the first camp and receiving a moderate wage and good food for their work, or of spending the winter at the second camp where they can be kept at the least expense to the public and not become a nuisance by congregating in large numbers in the cities. Such an arrangement, rigidly enforced, would relieve those who are actually in want, and expose those who pretend they want to work but never get farther than the pretension."

So far as the record shows, Major Bowly's successors never put his Spartan remedy into actual practice.

He urged all Californians to support Manchester Boddy, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Los Angeles Daily News, in the race for Downey's seat. He hailed Boddy as a "great and effective champion of true liberal democracy."

In Los Angeles, Boddy said he agreed to enter the senatorial race only because of Downey's withdrawal. He said he will file for the senate on both the democratic and republican tickets.

Two other leading candidates—Reps. Helen Gahagan Douglas (D.) and Richard M. Nixon (R.) already have filed in both primaries.

News of 4-H CLUBS
Prospect 4-H group No. 2 met at the home of Mrs. Macro March 24. Mrs. Macro is leader of this group. Eight members were present and plans were made for an Easter party.

Cup cakes were prepared for demonstration by Connie Charley, Marcia Findlay and Laurel Degman.

Next meeting will be March 30 at the home of Mrs. Merlyn Hornbuckle. Olivia Larson and Joanne Rinkes will demonstrate quick breads.

Shirley Charley, reporter

HONOR ROLL

The following students at the Medford junior high school were named to the honor roll for the fourth six-weeks period at the school:

7th Grade Boys

Bash, Frank, A A A B A B
Carn, Neil, A B B B A A B
Culy, Stanley, A A A A A A A
DeVore, M. A A B B A A B A
Dyer, Bill, A B B A A A A
Gregory, Bill, B B A A A B B
Hayes, Stuart, A A A A A A A
Jacobs, Loren, A A B B A A A
Manley, Edw., A A A A A A A
Morris, Bradley, B B A B A B B
Robinson, Don, B A B B A A B
von Ting, Dennis, B A A A B B
Wyatt, John, B B A A A B B
Yokum, F. A B A B A A B A
Y'Blood, Tom, B B A B A B B

7th Grade Girls

Cox, Elaine, B B B B A A B
Crum, Barbara, B B B B A A B
Hamilton, Nancy, B A B B A A B
Handy, Juanita, A A B A A A B
Jennings, Melissa, A A B B A A B
Reichstein, Suzanne, A A B A A A A
Rhymes, Dorothy, A A B A A A A
Roach, Barbara, A A B A A A B
Robinson, Florence, A B B B A A B

8th Grade Boys

Rukovina, Cynthia, B B B B A A B
Sorun, Elaine, A A A A A A A
Watson, Leah, A A B B A A A
8th Grade Boys
Antony, Joe, A A A B A A B
Gleason, Vernon, A A A B A A B
Guntton, James, A B B B A A B
Holtzang, Curtis, A B B B A A B
McDonald, James, A B B B A A B
Noy, Stephen, B A B B A A B
Wolff, Ronald, A A B A A B B

8th Grade Girls

Allen, Mary, B B B B 100
Campbell, Harriett, B A B B A A
Carr, Janet, B A B B A A B
Conner, Jane, A A B B A A B
Hawley, Georgia, A A B A A B
Howard, Alice, B A B A A B
Hubbard, Sandra, B B A A A B
Lawrence, Patty, A A A A A 100
Lippy, Dawn, B A B A A A B
Lubbers, Veona, B A B B A A B
Lynch, Shirley, B A B B A A B
McCulloch, Cora, B B B A A B B
Merkel, Sharon, A A A A A 100
Meyer, Alice, A A B A A A B
Miller, Nancy, B B B B A A B
Moore, Marianne, A A A A A A B
Padgiam, Ann, B B A B B A B
Rawster, Joan, B A A A A A B
Richmond, Corrie, B B B A A B B
Strader, Patricia, B B B B A A B
Tunnell, Sylvia, B B B B A A B
White, Patsy, A B A B A A B
Zunwalt, Donna, A B A A A A B
Cantrall, Dorene, B B B B A A B

9th Grade Boys

Britton, Darrell, A A A A A B
Crain, Dick, A A A A A B
Davis, Dennis, A A A A A B
Denning, Carl, A A A B B
Lambo, Jerry, A A A B B B
Shaffer, Paul, A B B B B
Shepherd, Bob, A A A B B
Shinn, Jim, A A A B B
Sorun, Pome, Roy, A A A A A B
9th Grade Girls

Abbott, Vera, A B B B B
Anderson, Marian, A A B A B
Barr, Tressa, A A B A B
Bourne, Carolyn, A B B A B
Bruck, Jean, A B B B A
Buffington, Sallee, A A B B A
Burger, Dorothy, A A B A B
Cantrall, Leota, B B B A B B
Cox, Delores, A A B A A B
Davis, Janice, B A B B B
Denman, Ann, A A A A A B
Doty, Marilyn, A B B A A B

Indo China Warfare Described By Veteran

(Editor's note: How well-equipped is the communist-led revolt in French Indo-China, and how effectively do its troops fight? A United Press correspondent on the scene reports on a five-day battle described by one of its survivors in this engagement the French were far outmatched in weapons, and what the rebels lacked in strategy they made up in fanaticism and numbers.)

By Robert C. Miller
United Press Correspondent
Lao Kay, Indo-China, Mar. 30 (U.P.)—A bearded, battle-scarred French army sergeant told in a quiet voice today how tough this four-year-old war in Indo-China really is.

Roger Simonnot, 23, survived the siege of Fort Phalu on the Red river, where 30 French soldiers and 60 natives held off some 1,200 Viet Minh and Chinese communist troops for five days and nights before the well-fortified position was taken.

Made Fanatical Rushes
The tall Frenchman said the bastion had rifles, a few light mortars and some automatic weapons. The communists threw in heavy mortars, artillery shells and a hail of small arms fire and made dozens of fanatical rushes.

After the fort was abandoned Simonnot fought his way through 30 miles of hot, dangerous jungle. A wounded officer, Jean Petchot, lived in the jungle 13 days before a French patrol picked him up. He was eating grass when found.

The action took place a month ago.

Simonnot said a relief column sent to Fort Phalu had not been able to fight its way through. The isolated unit sat in the middle of the jungle under hourly shelling. It was helpless to answer.

He said the communist-led Viet Minh rebels would set up

Fenton, Beth, A A A A A
Frederick, Evelyn, A A A A A
Gillis, Leora, B B B B B
Gillman, Geraldine, A B B A B
Graves, Bonnie, A A A A A
Kelley, Loretta, A A A A A
Lamp, Joy, A B B B B
Lyman, Shirley, A B A A A
McAllister, Kath, B A A A A B
McDuffie, Gail, A A A A A
Manning, Roberta, A A A A A
Newton, Nancy, A B A B B B
Overstreet, Violet, B B B B A
Ragsdale, Barbara, A B B A A
Vail, Ann, A B B B B
Walden, Betty, A A A A A
Williams, Betty, B B A A B

ANDERSONS TOGETHER

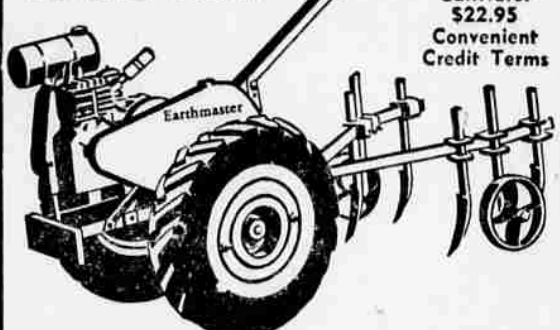
Stromsburg, Neb. (U.P.)—When Dr. C. L. Anderson came to his waiting room door and said: "Mrs. Anderson, you're next," three women stood up. They were all named Mildred Anderson and none was related to the doctor.

Chicago — (U.P.) — Downtown workers now have a chance to learn about Picasso during their lunch hours. The University of Chicago arranged with Chicago's Art Institute to conduct lunch-time art classes as part of the university's adult education program.

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